

Grace United Methodist Church
1718 Avalon Avenue
Joliet, Illinois 60435-5799

MONTH of MAY

May 7th - Communion Sunday

May 14th - Mother's Day

May 21st - Confirmation Sunday

Last day of Sunday School

May 28th - Pentecost 9:30am service starts



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GRACE NOTES

Volume 11 Issue 5 May 2023

On May 24, 1738, John Wesley attended a worship service or group meeting in Aldersgate Street in London. He wrote that "his heart was strangely warmed" and he experienced an assurance of his own salvation. This was a turning point for John Wesley and the Methodist movement in Britain and America. John Wesley was a parish priest but his preaching attracted a lot of attention, including his superiors who deemed that his preaching was too "radical". Thus he found himself without a "parish." English churches were organized around parishes and protected by established decorum.

Later on the phrase "The world is my parish" became synonymous with the invitation to preach the Good News to all. Wesley "moved" the Gospel in coal mines, city corners, hospitals, town halls and other venues.

I had the privilege to visit the Wesley Chapel in London and walked in the parsonage beside the chapel. Worship life was central to John Wesley and in his room there was an adjoining room that he used as a private chapel. His brother Charles, also shaped the development of the Methodist movement by using hymns to connect us with God. Charles Wesley's organ was also in display where he composed many beautiful hymns we still sing today for worship.

What is worship? Why is it central to our faith? Worship is our approach to God and offering what is pleasing in God's sight. Through the year's worship speaks to the new generation of believers. This sort of thing happens when God meets us in a particular place. It can be anywhere, the beauty of nature as spring flower emerges, in the busy intersection when we are stuck in traffic, in quiet places where we seek refuge or even in places where life and death intersects. When God meets us, God leaves an imprint in our lives.

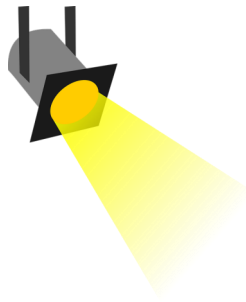
The month of May prepares us for the next season in Pentecost. May 28, 2023 is Pentecost Sunday with ONE SERVICE at 9:30 a.m. We will continue to offer worship that is pleasing to God and share our many unique gifts during the summer months.

In the mean time we will have Mother's Day, Baptism, Confirmation, Memorial Day and please check the rest of our announcements in Grace Notes. You may always call the *Church Office, Prayer Ministry Team* for sharing joys and concerns. We also give thanks for our *Music Ministry, our Sunday School parents and teachers, and Mission Ministry partners.*

"Be Joyful Always, Give Thanks in All Circumstances. Count it all joy." I give thanks to God for Grace Church. We are one body. We are Grace.

Blessings and Peace, Pastor Romir





MISSION SPOTLIGHT

We will serve at Daybreak the third Monday in May and breakfast the third Tuesday. The sign up sheet for food donations are posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. We will start serving again in October. I'd like to thank everyone that has helped support this mission with food or monetary donations. I'd also like to thank Theresa Whitney, Stella Slinkard, Shannon Rojas and her family, Ubaldo, Nathan, Reyna, Stella, and Aden for serving throughout the year. Thank you, Diane Lutz

UMCOR sends us a thank you for the gift of \$113.81 for our support of Environmental Sustainability.

TREE OF LIFE MINISTRIES has thanked us for our gift of \$141.90 for help with food and clothing distribution.

Important information regarding Northern Illinois Conference and Boy Scouts of America

Grace Church has supported out local Boy Scout Troop for many years and have appreciated the partnership developed. It is a vital ministry. However, in December 2022, Grace Church was not able to extend its chartering agreement with the Boy Scouts. It was a sad decision. The local Troop found another church who offered safe space and chartering responsibilities.

The decision was complicated and you will find in this Grace Notes the rationale for this action. We followed the directive of the Conference to offer a space sharing agreement but NOT chartering the Boy Scouts because of insurance liabilities and many unanswered questions. We still support and affirm our youth involved in Scouting.

The lawsuit and the corresponding settlement was due to Sexual Abuse of Children and Youth for a specific period of years. Let me assure you that there **was no record of Sexual Abuse of Children at Grace Church**. We have a Safe Sanctuary Policy in place.

Part of the settlement involve compensation for victims of sexual abuse survivors. The details are in the news article that we have received from the conference. Our Church Council is aware of the settlement and advise the Church how to contribute to this fund. All churches in the Conference, whether the church has chartered Boys Scouts in the past or in some other supportive relationship are now being asked to consider supporting this fund.

We are praying for the church for the healing and reconciliation of God's beloved children.

God bless, Pastor Romir

MAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7a AA	2 6:30p SPRC	3 6:15p Bells 7:30p Choir	4 7:30a Men's Breakfast 6-8p AFO/OFA	5 6-8p AFO/OFA	6
7 Communion Sunday 8am Worship 9 am Religious Ed 10:30 Worship	8 7a AA	9 6:30p Trustees	10	11 7:30a Men's Breakfast 6-8p AFO/OFA	12 6-8p AFO/OFA	13
14 MOTHER'S DAY 8am Worship 9 am Religious Ed 10:30 Worship	15 7a AA 5p Daybreak	16 7a Daybreak	17 7:30p Choir	18 7:30a Men's Breakfast 6-8p AFO/OFA	19 6-8p AFO/OFA	20 ASP Project 10-noon Playground
21 8am Worship 9 am LAST Religious Ed 10:30 Worship Confirmation	22 7a AA	23 6:30p Finance	24 deadline For June Grace Notes 7:30p Choir	25 7:30a Men's Breakfast 5:30p Preschool Graduation 6-8p AFO/OFA	26	27
28 PENTECOST 9:30 am Worship Service	29 7a AA 	30	31			
					20	23

Grace United Methodist Church

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Hero Hotline: Called together to Serve God!

3 years – 6th grade

9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Child’s Name _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Address _____

E-Mail Address _____

Phone Numbers: Cell _____ Work _____

Age Information

Date of Birth _____ Age _____

Grade entering in Fall 2023 _____

Home Church _____

Allergies/Medical Information/Other

Emergency Contact

Name _____ Phone _____

CONSENT

I give permission to Grace UMC to take and use: Photographs and or digital images of my child for use in news releases, web sites or electronic publications. I agree that my child’s name and identity: may be revealed in descriptive text or commentary in connection with the image(s). I authorize the use of these images without compensation to me. All negatives, prints, digital reproductions and shall be the property of Grace UMC, Joliet IL

Dismissal Information

Name(s) of person(s) who may pick up this child from VBS

Registration forms can be mailed to the church or put in the outdoor black mailbox.

If you have any questions, please call the church office at 815-725-7632





Cathy Boswell Set For Induction Into Women's Basketball Hall of Fame

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. – It has been nearly six months since Illinois State women's basketball great Cathy Boswell learned that she had earned a spot among women's college basketball's all-time greats as a member of the 2023 Women's Basketball Hall of Fame Class.

That long wait comes to an end Saturday, when the 2023 Women's Basketball Hall of Fame Class will officially be inducted during the 24th WBHOF Induction Ceremony.

This year's Women's Basketball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be broadcasted live at 5 p.m. CT on ESPN3, which can be found at the link above.

ESPNU will also carry a rebroadcasting of this year's ceremony on the following days and times: May 2 at 7:30 p.m. CT, May 4 at 4:00 p.m. CT, May 6 at 4:00 p.m. CT, and May 7 at 6 p.m. CT.

Cathy Boswell (1979-83) was a two-time WBCA Kodak All-American and two-time Wade Trophy finalist during her time at ISU, finishing her collegiate career with 2,005 points and 1,054 rebounds. She led the Redbirds to 90 wins, an NCAA Tournament berth in 1983, a 15th-place finish in the AIAW National Tournament in 1981 and two WNIT bids (1980 and 1982).

Following her illustrious collegiate career, Boswell was a member of the 1984 women's Olympic gold medalist USA basketball team and competed internationally for 14 years, earning seven team most valuable player awards, one league MVP title, a player of the year award and five league championships.

The members for the Class of 2023 are **Cathy Boswell** (Veteran Player), Donna Lopiano (Contributor), Lisa Mattingly (Official), Carolyn Peck (Coach), and Lindsey Whalen (Player).

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UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

UWF met on Saturday, April 22, for their auction/potluck meeting. Twenty-three women brought a huge variety of items for the auction plus a dish to share for the potluck. Significant funds were raised to help support the UWF missional efforts. The potluck with chicken, lots of hot dishes, salads, and desserts was a success as the women enjoyed the return of this special annual event.



Vacation Bible School



Grace United Methodist Church invites children ages 3 years to 6th grade to Hero Hotline VBS!! Heroes will work together to bring peace and build one another up! This VBS includes cool music, amazing science experiments, creative crafts, fun recreation and memorable Bible stories that heroes will use to go and help solve problems out in the community!! The Heroes will meet at the Hero Hotline Headquarters (Sanctuary) from June 19 – 22, 2023 from 9 – 11:30 am There will be a VBS community celebration on June 22, 2023 from 4 – 5:30 pm. Registration forms are on the kiosk or on the website at www.graceumcjoliet.org or contact the church at 815-725-7632. Sign up today!! If you would like to volunteer, please contact Diane Morrow at 825-482-2439.

March

2023 Income & Expense Summary

Comparison to expected cash flow for budget approved 12/20/22

		March		Year to Date	
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
INCOME		\$19,809	\$16,255	\$67,925	\$66,179
EXPENSES					
	Apportionment	\$2,317	\$2,317	\$6,951	\$6,951
	Salaries & Benefits	\$19,761	\$19,823	\$49,535	\$49,296
	Administration	\$1,221	\$818	\$3,663	\$3,927
	Programming	\$934	\$696	\$2,800	\$2,207
	Church Buildings	<u>\$6,232</u>	<u>\$8,231</u>	<u>\$23,275</u>	<u>\$25,461</u>
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$30,465	\$31,885	\$86,224	\$87,842
	SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT):	-\$10,656	-\$15,630	-\$18,299	-\$21,663

NOTES:

1) Reasonably close to plan after 3 months, but variances are in the wrong direction.

5/4 - John Renzi
5/7 - Carrie Butler
5/8 - Cindy Caswell
5/9 - Jim Norris
5/10 - David Black , Jim Morrow, Emma DeBartolo
5/11 - Diane Lutz
5/11 - Isabella Ray
5/16 - Jean Lucas, Jason Meister
5/19 - Jeannine D’Orazio, Connie Schroeder
5/20 - Mike Fisher
5/21 - Dylan Deardurff
5/22 - Calli Rupsis
5/25 - Deborah Larson, Owen Salerno
5/28—Quinn Page
5/31—Thomas Zettergren



Thomas & Carol Zettergren	May 8, 1965
Don & Cathy Kazak	May 23, 1987
Jim & Diane Morrow	May 23, 1987
Ed & Caryn Young	May 23, 1970
Eric & Nancy Leggett	May 29, 1976
Brian & Joan Landers	May 31, 1975

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

June Grace Notes deadline is Wednesday, May 24th. Please have your articles and announcements into the office. You can email, call the office, hand written note and leave in office. Thank you, Adrienne



Sign-up to greet people as they enter the building before the 10:30 am service. Starting May 28th one service at 9:30. Greet people entering the building, look for new faces in the crowd, offer to show people around. You will be the one to make people feel welcome! Two people may sign-up to share the Greeting duties each Sunday. This is an important ministry. We only have one chance to make a first impression!



APRIL ATTEN	WORSHIP 8AM 10:30AM	CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL	ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
April 2	10/102	21	19
April 6	38	Maundy	Thursday
April 9	19/127	Easter	Sunday
April 16	12/85	21	14
April 23	11/70	12	14
April 30	12/81		

Many thanks for all the cards and prayers for the sudden passing of my sister. I’m truly grateful for my church family. Mae Brown

Diane Morrow is looking for a copy of any Ottawa Street UMC directories. Please contact Diane if you have any to share.

Congratulations Lyn and Cheryl Burton

Lyn and Cheryl were married on April 12th in Denham Springs, Louisiana.

Honeymooning on a cruise to the UK.

Best wishes to the happy couple.



The congregation is invited to celebrate the Confirmation of our Class of 2023 into membership of the church at our 10:30 worship service on May 21, 2023.

CLASS MEMBERS BEING CONFIRMED ARE:

Brianna Furto, daughter of Lisa and Eric Furto—her mentor is Joanne Ray

Aden Guzman, son of Shannen and Ubaldo Rojas—his mentor is Don Lutz

Everyone is invited to a reception immediately following our worship service to welcome our new members. Congratulations to our confirmands and their families.

Restaurant Club Please join us for dinner and camaraderie on Saturday, May 20th at 6pm for dinner at ‘113 Main’ in Oswego.

The address of the restaurant is 113 Main St., Oswego.

RSVP to Diane Parro at 630-430-3808 by May 14th.